

Biomedical Scholars Association General Body Meeting
04/08/2019 SPH W4030, 12:30-1:30pm

Introductions: Name, program, year, favorite/least favorite thing about Spring

Open Eboard positions: brief descriptions

Upcoming events: Flemi Award 04/18
Hildreth Lecture 4/30
General Body Meeting 05/13
11th Annual Milestone Celebration

Hopkins Police Force: Bill 793

What's in the Bill?:

- 2 parts:
1. Community Investment
 - Police athletic/activities league
 - Historical library
 - Baltimore city YouthWorks summer program
 - Baltimore city Children and Youth fund
 2. Relaunching of Police Cadet force
 - JHPD: Peabody, Homewood, east Baltimore campus

Johns Hopkins Police Department (JHPD): shared responsibility with Baltimore police department on campus and in adjacent areas

Limitations: cannot police non-Hopkins property (with exceptions)

Transparency/Reporting: have to provide public access to records, annual reporting, undergo independent evaluation and review

Public Accountability: accountability board made up of 15 people (10 will be Hopkins appointed, 5 will be community members, 2 of those 5 will be appointed by Baltimore officials)

Civil liability and cost

Compliant process: can file complaints about officers

Civilian Review Board: will evaluate complaints

JHPD Hearing Board

Training Policies and Accreditation: for impartiality and non-discriminatory policing

Limited size

Local hiring and recruitment: 25% will be Baltimore residents

Memorandum of Understanding: not written yet, have to enter into it with BPD (BPD retains primary responsibility to investigations. Once written, they will post it online and present it to public forums)

Facebook page against JHPD: Students Against Private Police Force
Sit-In at Garland Hall since Thursday

Thoughts and Discussion:

- I'm not convinced that there will be an increased standard of accountability than we already see with the BPD
- 10/15 people on the accountability board being Hopkins appointed is concerning
- The issue with the BPD is there is no enforcement of police regulations, how will it be different with the JHPD?
- It's also concerning that the accountability board has no power to enforce anything
- As a person of color, this doesn't make me feel safe, I don't see how anything will change, you can't solve a problem at the end point. As a first year, it's hard to see this happening
- This is happening in response to the fear people express when visiting and considering Hopkins
- Why do they have to create a whole new PD, why can't they train current security?
- I'm frustrated with the administration because they didn't try to explore alternatives
- I'm not surprised that they are doing this since they've been expanding into the neighboring areas for a while
- And it's not the best impression because of Hopkins' shady history
- It continues the narrative of these (the African Americans in the surrounding community) are the "other." How can we stop this?
- Can something be done about accountability, like adding additional members to the accountability board?
- The city civilian review board can't do anything (has no power)
- Is there a home base for the officers? → In the student center at Homewood
- They only added five community members to the accountability board because they want to keep community impact and influence at a minority
- 25% of the officers being residents seems low, is this normal?
- I don't care if the officers live here or are a person of color, they are still upholding the system. When they implemented a police force before (elsewhere), they implemented anti-bias training and found the officers didn't attend and were never held accountable
- How armed will they be? → Unclear, they will have body cameras and will be trained to use tazers instead of guns
- How do people feel in relation to their colleagues? Many don't care or aren't decided on the police force, and it makes me look at them a different way
- It depends on their life experience, a lot of people aren't from here and don't understand. They just latch onto their fear and the crimes that do happen
- I get angry when I see them villainizing and demonizing black people in the surrounding community, it's hard to have these conversations with colleagues, it might be best to avoid it
- The constant security alerts create fear, is it helpful? Is there another way to keep us aware without creating fear?
- Through conversations with classmates, I hear them say they don't feel safe walking home from the shuttle stop. In a survey at the SPH, I saw a response saying, "I know this doesn't help my black of brown friends, but it does benefit me so I don't know how to feel." They just don't care.
- The Lyft partnership is a positive solution, we need more creative solutions like this rather than a private police force.

- I've had many awkward conversations with people who don't get it, can we organize something to help people understand? Is there a program level action item that can be done to help?
- This would have to address more than just the police force, and that can open up a can of worms
- BCMB students had to take implicit bias training and it still wasn't enough. It's very difficult to implement something that works
- I had lunch with the Provost's office and heard from people in other schools across Hopkins. They face many more challenges than we do at the SOM
- People can't make the distinction between isolated incidents and systematic problems, and that's an issue
- If we're at an institution that truly values diversity and inclusion, then they should have this covered
- You can find the bill and more information on the 2019 Legislation and Resources webpage. There is a box to provide feedback so send in your thoughts
- You can follow it on Facebook, IG, Twitter. We'll be thinking of ways to move forward
- There is a petition starting for a referendum. They need 60,000 votes by June and 100,000 by July. Once it comes around, we should share it